United Nations A/63/118

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 78 of the preliminary list*
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 61/30 of 4 December 2006. Nineteen Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross transmitted to the Secretary-General the information requested by the Assembly in resolution 61/30. A list of States parties to the Additional Protocols of 1977 is contained in the annex.

* A/63/50.

08-42036 (E) 290708

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–4	3
II.	Information received from Member States		3
	Austria		3
	Belarus		4
	Belgium		5
	Bulgaria		6
	China		7
	Colombia		8
	Ecuador		9
	Egypt		10
	Estonia		11
	Finland		12
	Hungary		13
	Mexico		13
	Norway		14
	Poland		14
	Qatar		15
	Sweden		16
	Switzerland		17
	Turkey		18
	Turkmenistan		18
III.	Information received from international organizations		18
	International Committee of the Red Cross		18
Annex			
	List of States parties to the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as at 11 July 2008		21

I. Introduction

1. On 4 December 2006, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/30, entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts". In paragraph 11 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-third session a report on the status of the Additional Protocols of 1977 and on measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, inter alia, with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level, based on information received from Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General, by notes verbales dated 22 January 2007 and 29 February 2008 and letters dated 2 February 2007 and 14 February 2008 invited, respectively, Member States and ICRC to transmit to him by 1 June 2008 the information requested in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 61/30 for inclusion in the present report.

3. Replies have been received from Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Turkmenistan, as well as from ICRC. Extracts of the replies are contained in sections II and III of the present report. The full texts of the replies are available for review on the website of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly (http://www.un.org/ga/sixth, sixty-third session, status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, report of the Secretary-General, full texts of replies).

4. The list of all States that are parties to the Protocols[1] Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949,[2] as at 20 June 2008, is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Information received from Member States

Austria

[Original: English]
[2 June 2008]

1. At the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva in November 2007, the Government of Austria made the following pledges, partly in cooperation with the Austrian Red Cross:

(a) Organization of seminars on international humanitarian law for university students, journalists and other opinion leaders; a seminar will take place in September 2008;

(b) Adoption of a national law providing for a ban on cluster munitions and the destruction of existing Austrian stockpiles within three years (entered into force in January 2008);

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.
[2] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

(c) Engagement regarding the signing and ratification by States of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) and to uphold Austria's support for projects against anti-personnel mines as a political priority;

(d) Measures with a view to enhancing the education of students with a migrant background;

(e) Integration of the teaching aid "Exploring humanitarian law" into education in schools;

(f) Organization of a follow-up conference to the European Education Leadership Conference on Exploring Humanitarian Law in Ljubljana in June 2008, in cooperation with Slovenia.

2. The Austrian Red Cross made the following pledges:

(a) Promotion of the voluntary work of young Muslim immigrants in the Austrian Red Cross in order to foster their integration into Austrian society;

(b) Attaining adequate accommodation facilities for refugees.

3. In February 2008, the new Federal Law on the Recognition of the Austrian Red Cross and the Protection of the Emblem of the Red Cross entered into force.

Belarus

[Original: Russian]
[30 May 2008]

1. In 2007, regulations on the issuance and use of international distinctive signs of civil defence and identity cards for civil defence personnel were approved.

2. The Ministry of Defence has drawn up draft instructions on the application of international humanitarian law by the armed forces.

3. Belarus is formalizing its participation in various international instruments in the area of international humanitarian law.

4. Since 1997, ICRC has been providing the texts of international humanitarian law treaties to the armed forces of Belarus.

5. The following activities have been carried out between the Ministry of Defence and ICRC with a view to the study and dissemination of international humanitarian law in the armed forces: meetings and seminars; regional competitions; training in the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy, and in the training centre in the Russian Federation; participation in international conferences and round tables of ICRC.

6. Since 1998, an international educational project on international humanitarian law has been conducted.

7. A teachers' manual on international humanitarian law was published in 2006, and the syllabus of the course on international humanitarian law for schools and specialized secondary institutions was approved in 2008.

8. In 2007, an international conference on the theme "International humanitarian law: new challenges, new tests", was held in Minsk. Problems related to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, of distinctive emblems and of cultural values and the campaign against terrorism were considered.

9. In 2007, the Ministry of Justice held a seminar (round table) with ICRC on customary norms of international humanitarian law.

Belgium

[Original: French]
[4 June 2008]

1. On 20 February 1987, shortly after the entry into force of the Additional Protocols, the Belgian Government established an Interdepartmental Commission for Humanitarian Law entrusted with identifying and reviewing national measures for the implementation of international humanitarian law, proposing such measures to the competent authorities, and monitoring and coordinating the measures taken.

2. The Commission submits an annual report on its activities to the Ministers represented on the Commission.

3. The Belgian Commission, one of the first implementation commissions, is frequently cited by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as an example to be emulated and has served as a model for the establishment of similar bodies in other countries.

4. Shortly after the entry into force of the 1977 Additional Protocols in Belgium, the Defence Department established a panel of advisers on the law of armed conflict (article 82 of Additional Protocol I), consisting of active and reserve officers. In that connection, reference is made to General Order No. J/797 B of 8 February 1996, later replaced by the "Specific procedure" directive of 21 February 2008.

5. The role of the panel is to advise military commanders on the implementation, doctrine and teaching of the law on armed conflict and on the rules of engagement. Training for the advisers is organized by the Chair of Law of the Royal Military Academy.

6. An information brochure has been prepared by the working group on "Protection of cultural property", to be published and disseminated in 2008. It proposes to revise the signage of protected cultural property in order to avoid confusion with the protective signs of the Hague Convention of 1954.

7. A "Commission for the legal assessment of new weapons and new means and methods of warfare" was established in the Department of Defence. Pursuant to article 36 of Additional Protocol I, the commission's mission is to examine the legality of any new weapon, means or method of warfare under study, development, acquisition or adoption by the Armed Forces.

8. Recent progress in the area of arms and ammunition consists in the adoption of acts, dated 18 May 2006, which, under conditions specified therein, prohibit the use of submunitions.

9. The military section of the National Inquiry Office has been established by the Ministry of Defence.

10. In 2004, the Ministry of the Interior directed local authorities to draw up an inventory of buildings suitable for collective housing for emergency use in the event of widespread conflict or crisis and which could be made available to the authorities and relief agencies immediately or within a short period of time.

11. Belgian support for ICRC programmes have targeted the protection of victims of conflicts in Central Africa, Colombia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the dissemination of humanitarian law, and mine-action activities.

12. The secondary schools curriculum contains no courses as such in international humanitarian law.

13. The initiatives taken vary among communities and educational networks.

14. International humanitarian law is offered as a major in some law schools. Here again, because of the role of the community in education, there may be some differences between communities and, as a result, between universities and institutions of higher learning.

15. International humanitarian law is taught as part of general courses in public international law to students but also in other disciplines (such as political science and journalism).

16. The Commission's working group on the dissemination of international humanitarian law in education was initially limited to the educational field, but its mandate was recently expanded to cover dissemination in the broad sense, particularly among the general public.

17. The following activities to disseminate international humanitarian law may be mentioned:

– Training of the francophone staff of the Belgian Red Cross:

  Training in international humanitarian law is provided two or three times a year to volunteers and permanent and expatriate members of that national society.

– Training for the general public:

  Since 2006, a basic course in international humanitarian law has been organized once a year for members of the public interested in this subject or whose professional activities require knowledge of international humanitarian law.

Bulgaria

[Original: English]
[28 May 2008]

1. A special study programme in international humanitarian law was incorporated into the curriculum at the Academy of Defence, and related topics were included in military manuals. Briefings on international humanitarian law were carried out for instructors for peacekeeping missions. Specialized study courses were conducted and a handbook on international humanitarian law was disseminated.

2. Cooperation between the Bulgarian Red Cross and the Ministry of Education and Science comprises preparation of study programmes on international humanitarian law.

3. A series of courses and workshops on international humanitarian law were held for students. The Ministry of Education and Science is examining the possibility of the integration within the school curriculum of an educational package on the theme "Exploring humanitarian law". The curriculum of international law at some universities already contains a number of items related to international humanitarian law.

China

[Original: Chinese]
[29 May 2008]

1. In 2005, ICRC set up an East Asian regional delegation office in Beijing.

2. In 2007, the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law was established (its first working group meeting was held in 2008).

3. In 2008, Wuhan University established an International Humanitarian Law research centre.

4. In 2008, the Research Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law included international humanitarian law in its research programme.

5. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict entered into force in China on 20 March 2008.

6. The Government of China has actively taken measures to fulfil the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and the Protocols thereto. The Government of China attaches importance to publicizing the amended Protocol II to the 1980 Convention. In 2006 and 2007, the Chinese military held large-scale competitions on knowledge relating to the Mines Protocol.

7. From 2005 to 2008, China provided technical training in humanitarian demining to Angola, Burundi, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Lebanon, Mozambique, the Sudan and Thailand, and also donated demining equipment.

8. The Government is conducting broad discussions regarding the application of current international humanitarian law to cluster munitions and is actively carrying out the preparatory work for the ratification of Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention).

9. In April 2004, the Xi'an Political Institute of the People's Liberation Army, in cooperation with ICRC, held a study group on the law of armed conflict for legal personnel throughout the military.

10. In 2006, the Chinese Society of International Law and ICRC held a regional seminar on customary international humanitarian law.

11. From 2006 to 2007, the Red Cross Society of China, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and ICRC, held courses on the topic "Exploring humanitarian law" in middle schools. In 2008, the three participating organizations continued this cooperative programme.

12. In 2007, the Red Cross of Hong Kong, China, and ICRC, in cooperation with Hong Kong University and the City University of Hong Kong, held the fifth Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot Court competition.

13. In 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with ICRC, held a regional symposium for the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption in 1977 of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions, which was attended by foreign affairs and national defence officials from 19 countries in East, South-east and South Asia. Also in 2007, the Peking University Law School, in cooperation with ICRC, held a training course in international humanitarian law for instructors in international law.

14. In 2007, the Red Cross Society of China, Renmin University and ICRC jointly conducted the first all-China international humanitarian law moot court competition and in 2008, Renmin University and ICRC held a seminar in Beijing on current humanitarian problems in armed conflicts. Also in 2008, the Southwest University of Political Science and Law, in cooperation with ICRC, held a training course in international humanitarian law.

15. In 2007, the Chinese language edition of *Customary International Humanitarian Law, Vol. I: Rules* was published, and selected works on international humanitarian law, translated from the 2005 and 2006 volumes of the *International Review of the Red Cross*, were published in 2007 and 2008.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[28 May 2008]

1. There are more than 35 human rights training platforms in Colombia. A large number of primers have been published and seminars on international humanitarian law have been held since 1992 for law enforcement officers. The Ministry of Defence published in 2008 its policy paper on the integration of human rights norms and international humanitarian law. The armed forces have introduced a standard teaching module to provide training in international humanitarian law. In 2007, the Division of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of the Ministry of Defence conducted 10 workshops in which approximately 80 members of the armed forces participated.

2. In 2007, the Armed Forces General Command issued a series of rules of engagement aimed at ensuring that operations are conducted in a manner that is respectful of human rights and international humanitarian law.

3. The Division of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law conducted three seminars on the rules governing operations for each branch of the armed forces for 280 military officers.

4. At present, the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces General Command have established a working group comprised of 40 persons, including members of law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities, which is elaborating a manual of operational guidelines.

5. The Colombian Armed Forces has established the post of Legal Adviser for Operations, the incumbent of which has been trained in the law governing operations, which include national and international norms.

6. In 2007, the Ministry of Defence conducted a workshop on international humanitarian law for 70 legal advisers to various military units.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish
[30 May 2008]

1. Ecuador has signed and ratified a number of international humanitarian law instruments.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has organized various events, including the first training seminar on international humanitarian law for State officials in 2004.

3. In 2006, the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the Armed Forces of Ecuador signed a Convention constituting an inter-agency commitment, with a view to the incorporation of international humanitarian law into the training programme of the armed forces. This led to the holding with ICRC of various training courses and seminars in schools and training centres.

4. In 2006, a study was published on the compatibility of domestic law with international humanitarian law.

5. In 2006, the National Committee on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law was established as a standing body in which various State bodies are represented. The Committee comprises four subcommittees: one for the preparation of and follow-up to recommendations concerning the signing and ratification of treaties; the second on draft legislation; the third on awareness-raising and training events; and the fourth on follow-up to institutional affairs and to the work of other national and international bodies in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law. A training workshop for new delegates to the Committee was held in 2007 in cooperation with ICRC.

6. In 2007, the Use and Protection of the Emblem of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Act was promulgated.

7. At the 2008 meeting of the Committee, the participants undertook to step up work on the definition of crimes against humanity and to continue their efforts to increase awareness of international humanitarian law among members of the armed forces. A course in international humanitarian law will be organized for high-level officials.

Egypt

[Original: Arabic]
[4 June 2007]

1. National legislation provides penalties for the substantial violations mentioned in articles 50, 51, 130 and 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and articles 11 to 85 of the first Additional Protocol thereto. The International Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity became part of Egyptian law after being ratified by Egypt, together with other instruments of international humanitarian law. The Ministry of Justice is about to complete the preparation of a bill on international judicial cooperation in criminal matters. The drafting of a bill on the repression of international crime has been completed. The military code includes provisions relating to punishment for war crimes and has been applied by military courts.

2. Egypt has taken steps to issue the identity cards which are provided for in, and models for which are annexed to, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the first Additional Protocol thereto.

3. The drafting of a new bill on the protection of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems has been completed.

4. International humanitarian law is taught to all judges and members of the Office of the Public Prosecutor at the National Centre for Judicial Studies. Competitions for men of the judiciary were organized in 2005 and 2006. Also in 2005 and 2006, research competitions were organized at the Ministries of Justice and the Interior. An in-depth session on international humanitarian law is being prepared at the National Centre for Judicial Studies. International humanitarian law is taught in all military schools and institutes. A symposium was organized for representatives of the armed forces in Arab States for the teaching of international humanitarian law in military schools and its inclusion in military programmes. Books, references and printed material on international humanitarian law are prepared and supplied to institutions and individuals. The Ministry of the Interior has prepared programmes for the dissemination of material of international humanitarian law among police academy students and officers. Publications are prepared for distribution to all police officers. In 2005, two in-depth sessions on international humanitarian law were held for police officers, in coordination with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society. Special symposiums as well as training sessions for its employees and researchers have been organized for members of the People's Assembly, Diplomats receive instruction in international humanitarian law at the Institute for Diplomatic Studies. Universities teach international humanitarian law as a subject. The inclusion of information on international humanitarian law in the study curricula for students is being planned. More than 800 trainers have been trained in the programme "Introduction to international humanitarian law" in the various governorates, and actual training with the programme has begun in some schools. In 2006, a course was organized for members of the media.

5. Numerous dissemination programmes are carried out by the Egyptian Red Crescent Society and ICRC for Red Crescent youth in all the governorates, including the holding of a training session in 2006 on the search for missing persons and a course for Red Crescent volunteers in 2006. The Ministry of Justice is about to complete the establishment of an Internet site for the National Committee on

International Humanitarian Law. An international humanitarian law centre has been created under the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law of the International Cooperation Section of the Ministry of Justice, which is building a collection of all studies and books relating to the subject. Meetings of experts from Arab Governments (2005 and 2007) and of national international humanitarian law experts (2006) were held.

6. A National Committee on International Humanitarian Law was formed in 2000. Four subcommittees have been created under the Committee: conferences and international cooperation; Legislation; Information; and Education. The technical secretariat undertook the drafting of a regional plan of action for the Committee with the aim of disseminating principles of international humanitarian law.

Estonia

[Original: English]
[4 June 2008]

1. The amendments to the Penal Code and the Red Cross Laws to ensure the protection of the Red Crystal emblem should be adopted by the Parliament in 2008.

2. The Estonian Youth Red Cross and the Ministry of Education organized a seminar in 2008 to introduce an educational programme on exploring humanitarian law in elementary and high schools.

3. The students organization European Law Students' Association, in cooperation with the non-profit organization, Martens Society, organizes annual seminars on different topics related to international humanitarian law.

4. In 2007, the Ministry of Defence provided financial support to the initiative of the Martens Society to translate the book *Constraints on the Waging of War* by F. Kalshoven and L. Zegveld.

5. In 2007, the International University Audentes established a Human Rights Centre to disseminate and protect human rights through research, publications and cooperation among relevant institutions.

6. In 2005, Estonia created a Committee for the Implementation of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with the aim of unifying relevant legislation. The Committee organized an international conference on the protection of cultural property in 2008. A military academy for high officials holds courses on international humanitarian law for military officials from the Baltic States.

7. The Agreement between the Government of Estonia and the United Nations on the Enforcement of Sentences of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia should enter into force in 2008.

Finland

[Original: English]
[13 May 2008]

1. In 2004, Finland ratified various international humanitarian law instruments. Preparations for the ratification of Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions are under way.

2. Provisions on material criminal law in the Penal Code were reviewed to reach full compatibility with the definitions of crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force in 2008. Negotiations on an agreement on the enforcement of sentences with the International Criminal Court are under way. Similarly, negotiations have been initiated with the Special Court for Sierra Leone on an agreement on the enforcement of sentences. Finland has financially supported the International Criminal Court Victims Trust Fund, as well as the Court's Visiting Professionals Programme and the implementation of the Legal Tools Project. Finland has also sought to build support for the Court by financing projects of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court and the intersessional meetings on the Crime of Aggression organized at the University of Princeton in Princeton, New Jersey, United States of America.

3. At the thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in 2007, Finland made specific pledges, including: to promote public dissemination and training of international humanitarian law; to strengthen its national implementation and enforcement; to ensure respect for fundamental procedural guarantees for all persons detained in relation to an armed conflict; to promote the internationalization of arms export standards; to address in the context of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions and to support the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance; and to encourage member States of the European Union to work in close cooperation with their national societies.

4. Finland has pledged to support the integration of migrants into Finnish society, to strengthen understanding of the neutral and independent approach of the Red Cross to humanitarian action among key actors, and to promote a shared understanding of how international humanitarian law should be applied to computer network attacks during armed conflict.

5. Effective implementation of the European Union Guidelines on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law was one of the priorities of Finland during its presidency of EU in 2006.

6. In 2006, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Amnesty International arranged a joint seminar focusing on the situation in the western Balkan region and dealing with impunity.

7. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs funds training courses organized by the Finnish Red Cross. Other institutions have also organized courses and seminars and issued publications related to international humanitarian law.

8. Finland has regularly submitted information on the national implementation of international humanitarian law to the ICRC website.

Hungary

[Original: English]
[5 June 2008]

1. Hungary is a party to all major treaties in the field of international humanitarian law.

2. The National Advisory Committee for the Dissemination and Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (established in 2000) is a forum for the Hungarian authorities to coordinate measures aimed at a more effective implementation of international humanitarian law on the national level. In recent years, the Committee, in cooperation with the Hungarian Red Cross Society and ICRC, has taken steps to promote a better protection of the Red Cross emblem through the initiation of legislation and other legal measures as well as the launching of public awareness-raising campaigns.

3. Training in international humanitarian law is part of the curricula at institutions for military higher education. Hungarian military observers and contingents of peacekeeping missions also receive predeployment training.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[27 May 2008]

1. Mexico is a party to various international humanitarian law treaties and will be in a position in the near future to ratify Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions. The decree promulgating the Act governing the use and protection of the Red Cross designation and emblem entered into force in 2007.

2. The armed forces of Mexico have incorporated instruction in international humanitarian law into military doctrine and manuals and have developed ongoing training activities, such as conducting seminars for all military personnel. The armed forces has staff specialized in international humanitarian law, and the subject is included in the curricula of all institutions in the military training system-courses are offered for military lawyers serving as international humanitarian law advisers, and all military personnel carry a primer on international humanitarian law at all times and carry out relevant tactical exercises. Published materials include the Four Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I thereto; a primer on international humanitarian law and on conduct in combat; the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land; and the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Coordination meetings are held with ICRC to organize the training activities mentioned above. The Ministry of Defence has also created a Division that is responsible for matters relating to international humanitarian law and human rights, which became operational in 2008.

3. An Inter-Ministerial Committee on International Humanitarian Law to promote respect for and effective implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level is expected to begin its work at the end of 2008.

Norway

[Original: English]
[2 June 2008]

1. Norway has ratified various international humanitarian law instruments and has initiated and participated actively in the process leading to the recent adoption of a convention prohibiting cluster munitions.

2. In 2008, Norway adopted new penal provisions regarding genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The definitions of crimes in the Penal Code of 2005 also include acts that are not included in article 8 of the Rome Statute.

3. All personnel in the Armed Forces are obliged to complete an electronic learning course in international humanitarian law. Starting in 2008, a new joint curriculum provides for four hours of basic soldier training. Military exercises include specific international humanitarian law issues. Training in international humanitarian law is part of the training at the War College and the Staff Colleges. The Ministry of Defence cooperates closely with the Norwegian Red Cross. The Government of Norway is supporting the legal tools programme of the International Criminal Court. The Government and the Norwegian Red Cross promote the use in schools of the Norwegian version of the Exploring Humanitarian Law educational programme, which was originally developed by ICRC.

4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs re-established the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law in 2003. Members of the Committee are representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Justice, the Armed Forces, the Norwegian Red Cross and the University of Oslo.

Poland

[Original: English]
[29 May 2008]

1. Poland ratified and signed various IHL instruments; the ratification procedure of Additional Protocol III will be initiated shortly.

2. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols constitute a part of the Polish domestic legal order, and they have precedence over domestic laws.

3. The reforms of the penal law system have introduced into the Penal Code a new chapter on crimes against peace and humanity and war crimes.

4. The following bodies have been established with a view to implementing and disseminating international humanitarian law: inter-ministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Commission for the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law, affiliated with the Polish Red Cross; and inter-ministerial Programming Council on the protection of cultural goods in the event of special threats, affiliated to the Chief Commander of the State Fire Service.

5. Since 1997, the Ministry of National Defence has disseminated knowledge relating to international humanitarian law within the Polish Armed Forces (including

the Additional Protocols) by organizing specific courses for commanders, courses on the protection of cultural goods in the event of armed conflict, and specialist training for units designated to serve with the NATO Response Force.

6. In 2008, the system of vocational training in international humanitarian law for battalion commanders was established at the Academy of National Defence. Company and platoon leaders are to receive similar training. In 2009, the system will include personnel of the Air Force and Navy.

7. Handbooks on international humanitarian law are being made available to the members of the Polish military contingents to be deployed on missions abroad.

8. In 2006, the Ministry of National Defence published a textbook for teaching international humanitarian law in the Armed Forces. Also in 2006, the Minister of National Defence established a legal service within the Ministry. The legal advisers provide commanders with professional legal support in the context of article 82 of Additional Protocol I.

9. In 2005, the Minister of National Defence signed a decision concerning the observance of the principles of protection of cultural property.

10. At present the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration is in the course of preparing a draft law on the protection of the civilian population and the civil defence system. It is estimated that Parliament will put this draft law on its agenda at the end of 2008.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[12 May 2008]

1. Qatar is a party to various international humanitarian law instruments and is currently considering accession to other international humanitarian law instruments.

2. Law No. 11 (the Penal Code) was promulgated in 2004; its articles 105 and 343 criminalize certain acts committed during war.

3. Law No. 9 on the protection of intellectual property, which was promulgated in 2002, specifically concerns emblems that are identical or similar to those of the Red Crescent or Red Cross.

4. The National Disarmament Committee was established in 2004.

5. The Ministry of Justice has submitted to the Cabinet a draft law on the establishment of a national committee for international humanitarian law.

6. Qatari military law has been updated to incorporate provisions that are in harmony with international humanitarian law. The draft Military Code (currently under consideration) includes provisions in respect of acts that fall under the definition of war crimes.

7. Qatari diplomatic and military personnel have participated in international and regional conferences on international humanitarian law, including the seventh meeting of Arab governmental experts on international humanitarian law (2008). Members of the armed forces have participated in the following events: workshop on the law of armed conflict organized by the International Institute of

Humanitarian Law (2008); international humanitarian law seminar for military justice officers organized by the Turkish Centre for Peace (2008); course organized by ICRC in Beirut (2007); training course on international humanitarian law (the Geneva Conventions) organized by the League of Arab States (2008); advanced specialized courses that were given in several foreign and Arab States (Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, Egypt and Lebanon).

8. International humanitarian law is taught as part of the mandatory training courses given at the Centre for Legal and Judicial Studies. The National Human Rights Committee regularly organizes training courses and seminars with a view to disseminating international humanitarian law.

9. International humanitarian law is being disseminated through the courses administered by the military academy and the training institutes.

10. The General Assembly of the Organization of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies and a training seminar on international humanitarian law and the media were held in Doha in 2007.

11. The Qatar Red Crescent Society, in cooperation with the Department of Human Rights of the Ministry of the Interior, held a training workshop on international standards for the rights of prisoners and detainees.

12. A course on international humanitarian law and the mandates and duties of the Blue Helmets in the maintenance of international peace and security was offered to the Armed Forces.

Sweden

[Original: English]
[5 June 2008]

1. The Government of Sweden has established a committee which, inter alia, has the task of examining that Sweden's international commitments with regard to international humanitarian law are properly implemented. The committee is also analysing the ICRC study on customary international humanitarian law. The committee will present its conclusions in the fall of 2010.

2. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, together with the National Defence College and the Folke Bernadotte Academy, organized an international expert meeting on international humanitarian law and gender in Stockholm in 2007.

3. Sweden has provided continuous support to the international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the International Criminal Court through financial assistance and by entering into bilateral agreements regarding the enforcement of sentences and the relocation of witnesses.

4. Sweden has set up three national bodies to promote, implement and develop international humanitarian law: the Swedish Total Defence Council for International Humanitarian Law (in 1991); the Swedish Delegation for International Humanitarian Law Monitoring of Arms Projects; and the Delegation on Public International Law.

Switzerland

[Original: English]
[30 May 2008]

1. Switzerland is a party to the three Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions.

2. A series of meetings of government experts, representatives of military security companies and other specialists took place between 2006 and 2008. At the outcome of the next conference, which will be held in September 2008, it is planned to produce a joint document for all participants.

3. Switzerland actively participates in and makes a financial contribution to the work of a group of international experts assigned with the production of a manual on the conduct of armed warfare and the use of missiles. The group of experts hopes to conclude this process in 2009.

4. Switzerland has organized three informal meetings of high-level experts (2003 to 2006) to analyse current challenges in the area of international humanitarian law, and organized a meeting of experts on access to humanitarian aid in situations of armed conflict.

5. Since 2004, Switzerland has been engaged in a process which led to the drafting of a working document which envisages anti-mine measures in zones that are no longer under State control.

6. Switzerland is taking the necessary measures to integrate the Rome Statute in its national legislation. In 2008, the Federal Council adopted the message to Parliament accompanying the amendments to the criminal code and the military penal code. This consisted of including crimes against humanity in Swiss law and defining war crimes more precisely.

7. Switzerland contributes actively to the dissemination of the ICRC study on customary humanitarian law and, inter alia, organized a second meeting of experts designed for members of the armed forces (Geneva, 2007).

8. Switzerland has also set up a competition on international humanitarian law for officers of intermediate rank (battalion commanders) of the countries of the Council of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership/Partnership for Peace.

9. In 2004, Switzerland established a working group within the Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport charged with reflecting on the implementation of a review process, as envisaged in article 36 of Additional Protocol I. This would ensure that new weapons conformed to the requirements of international humanitarian law.

10. A working group met in 2007, and the creation of the group of friends of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission was proposed to coordinate political support for the Commission and raise awareness of its work.

Turkey

[Original: English]
[23 February 2007]

1. On 7 December 2006, Turkey signed the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem (Protocol III), adopted at the diplomatic conference held in Geneva from 5 to 8 December 2005.

Turkmenistan

[Original: Russian]
[13 March 2007]

1. The Act on the Use and Protection of the Red Crescent and Red Cross Emblems was adopted in 2001. ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in accordance with universally recognized international norms, shall use the red cross and red crescent emblems in the territory of Turkmenistan as protective and/or distinguishing signs.

2. The national Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan has been exempted from all taxes and customs duties.

3. The Public Health Care Act adopted in 2005 provides that the national Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan shall participate in public health-care activities.

4. Turkmenistan is a party to various international humanitarian law instruments.

III. Information received from international organizations

International Committee of the Red Cross

[Original: English]
[3 June 2008]

1. In 2006, the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 achieved universal acceptance. Two international humanitarian law instruments entered into force in the past two years, namely, Protocol V (to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons) on Explosive Remnants of War and Protocol III additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and relating to the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem.

2. The period under review was marked by the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which constitutes the first international instrument to explicitly ban practices leading to enforced disappearance.

3. The period under review was also marked by the formal adoption on 30 May 2008 in Dublin of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which establishes a new norm of international humanitarian law prohibiting the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions. It will be opened for signature in Oslo in December 2008.

4. The 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva in November 2007, brought together all States parties to the Geneva Conventions and all components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Conference adopted by consensus a resolution on the reaffirmation and implementation of international humanitarian law, which reasserts the relevance of such law, stresses the fundamental guarantees provided for all persons in the power of a party to an armed conflict and reaffirms the basic principles of international humanitarian law.

5. The ICRC report to the 2007 Conference provides an overview of new and emerging legal issues, such as international humanitarian law and terrorism, procedural principles and safeguards that should govern internment or administrative detention, and the conduct of hostilities, among others.

6. ICRC pursued a research project, intended to clarify the concept of "direct participation in hostilities", which will be brought to a conclusion by late 2008 with the publication of an interpretative guidance.

7. ICRC actively participated in international negotiations within the framework of both the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Oslo process, the latter being marked by the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 30 May 2008.

8. In 2007, ICRC continued disseminating its institutional position on the procedural principles and safeguards applicable to internment of administrative detention in armed conflict and other situations of violence. The ICRC regional delegation for the United States of America and Canada, together with Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, Ohio, United States of America), organized a seminar aimed at soliciting the views of experts on the relevant legal and practical issues.

9. ICRC is taking part in an initiative by the Government of Switzerland to emphasize and discuss the existing international framework of law concerning the activities of private military and security companies and the responsibilities of States in that respect. A series of intergovernmental meetings has been held since 2006.

10. In 2007, ICRC initiated a project on the law of occupation to study questions arising in connection with recent situations involving occupation and other forms of administrating foreign territory, which includes both consultations with key actors and meetings of experts.

11. In 2007 and 2008, the Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish translations of volume I of the study on customary international humanitarian law were launched. ICRC teamed up with the British Red Cross Society in 2007 on a project to update the practice contained in volume II of the study.

12. In 2007, ICRC finalized a document on increasing respect for international humanitarian law in non-international armed conflicts that was presented at the 30th International Conference.

13. In 2006, ICRC launched a consultation of experts intended to further analyse the role of sanctions in ensuring greater respect for international humanitarian law. The conclusions drawn from this process, including guidelines and principles, will be published by the end of 2008.

14. ICRC continued to promote knowledge of and compliance with international humanitarian law in training programmes for those who carry weapons as well as for civilian schools and universities. Its educational module, "Exploring Humanitarian Law", is being developed within the secondary school curriculum.

15. ICRC legal experts attended numerous conferences, seminars and courses and provided various interested bodies with expertise on topics related to international humanitarian law.

16. ICRC is working to provide national authorities with technical assistance for the adoption of the legislative, regulatory and administrative measures needed to ensure observance of international humanitarian law at the national level and its full implementation in domestic law.

17. ICRC also continued to make better known the mandate of the International Fact-Finding Commission and to foster cooperation between States parties to Additional Protocol I and that Commission.

18. ICRC has pursued its support for the setting up of national inter-ministerial committees on international humanitarian law and the fulfilment of their mandate to advise and assist national authorities concerned in promoting international humanitarian law in domestic law and practice. In March 2007, ICRC hosted in Geneva the second universal meeting of National Committees on International Humanitarian Law. As of 30 June 2007, national committees entrusted with the national implementation of international humanitarian law were working in 84 countries.

19. ICRC organized or contributed to a wide range of international and regional conferences, seminars and workshops, all with a view to familiarizing the authorities of various States with international humanitarian law and the measures needed to incorporate this international body of law into domestic law and practice.

20. ICRC hosted two regional meetings in Kuwait and Tunisia on landmines and explosive remnants of war.

21. ICRC also actively participated in the conferences and expert group meetings held in the framework of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and contributed to the meetings of States Parties to various international humanitarian law treaties and related instruments.

22. ICRC continued its cooperation with various international and regional organizations, including non-governmental organizations, international, regional and mixed judicial institutions.

23. New guidelines were distributed for the adoption of national legislation to prevent people from becoming unaccounted for as a result of armed conflict and to protect missing persons and their families. The ICRC model law on the emblems and its model Geneva Conventions Act for common law States were updated. A commentary on Protocol III, a Guide to the Legal Review of New Weapons, Means and Methods of Warfare, and a "practical guide" for applying international humanitarian law criteria in arms transfer decisions were published. Work is currently under way to prepare a new handbook on national implementation of international humanitarian law for national authorities. The ICRC database on national legislation and case law was updated.

Annex

List of States parties to the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as at 11 July 2008[a]

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Albania	16 July 1993
Algeria[b,c]	16 August 1989
Angola (Protocol I only)[b]	20 September 1984
Antigua and Barbuda	6 October 1986
Argentina[b,c]	26 November 1986
Armenia	7 June 1993
Australia[b,c]	21 June 1991
Austria[b,c]	13 August 1982
Bahamas	10 April 1980
Bahrain	30 October 1986
Bangladesh	8 September 1980
Barbados	19 February 1990
Belarus[c]	23 October 1989
Belgium[b,c]	20 May 1986
Belize	29 June 1984
Benin	28 May 1986
Bolivia[c]	8 December 1983
Bosnia and Herzegovina[c]	31 December 1992
Botswana	23 May 1979
Brazil[c]	5 May 1992
Brunei Darussalam	14 October 1991
Bulgaria[c]	26 September 1989
Burkina Faso[c]	20 October 1987
Burundi	10 June 1993
Cambodia	14 January 1998
Cameroon	16 March 1984

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Canada[b,c]	20 November 1990
Cape Verde[c]	16 March 1995
Central African Republic	17 July 1984
Chad	17 January 1997
Chile[c]	24 April 1991
China[b]	14 September 1983
Colombia (Protocol I)[c]	1 September 1993
(Protocol II)	14 August 1995
Comoros	21 November 1985
Congo	10 November 1983
Cook Islands[c]	7 May 2002
Costa Rica[c]	15 December 1983
Côte d'Ivoire	20 September 1989
Croatia[c]	11 May 1992
Cuba (Protocol I)	25 November 1982
(Protocol II)	23 June 1999
Cyprus (Protocol I)[c]	1 June 1979
(Protocol II)	18 March 1996
Czech Republic[c]	5 February 1993
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Protocol I only)	9 March 1988
Democratic Republic of the Congo (Protocol I)[c]	3 June 1982
(Protocol II)	12 December 2002
Denmark[b,c]	17 June 1982
Djibouti	8 April 1991
Dominica	25 April 1996
Dominican Republic	26 May 1994
Ecuador	10 April 1979
Egypt[b]	9 October 1992

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
El Salvador	23 November 1978
Equatorial Guinea	24 July 1986
Estonia	18 January 1993
Ethiopia	8 April 1994
Finland[b,c]	7 August 1980
France (Protocol I)[b]	11 April 2001
(Protocol II)[b]	24 February 1984
Gabon	8 April 1980
Gambia	12 January 1989
Georgia	14 September 1993
Germany[b,c]	14 February 1991
Ghana	28 February 1978
Greece (Protocol I)[c]	31 March 1989
(Protocol II)	15 February 1993
Grenada	23 September 1998
Guatemala	19 October 1987
Guinea[c]	11 July 1984
Guinea-Bissau	21 October 1986
Guyana	18 January 1988
Haiti	20 December 2006
Holy See[b]	21 November 1985
Honduras	16 February 1995
Hungary[c]	12 April 1989
Iceland[b,c]	10 April 1987
Ireland[b,c]	19 May 1999
Italy[b,c]	27 February 1986
Jamaica	29 July 1986
Japan[b,c]	31 August 2004

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Jordan	1 May 1979
Kazakhstan	5 May 1992
Kenya	23 February 1999
Kuwait	17 January 1985
Kyrgyzstan	18 September 1992
Lao People's Democratic Republic[c]	18 November 1980
Latvia	24 December 1991
Lebanon	23 July 1997
Lesotho	20 May 1994
Liberia	30 June 1988
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	7 June 1978
Liechtenstein[b,c]	10 August 1989
Lithuania[c]	13 July 2000
Luxembourg[c]	29 August 1989
Madagascar[c]	8 May 1992
Malawi	7 October 1991
Maldives	3 September 1991
Mali[c]	8 February 1989
Malta[b,c]	17 April 1989
Mauritania	14 March 1980
Mauritius[b]	22 March 1982
Mexico (Protocol I only)	10 March 1983
Micronesia (Federated States of)	19 September 1995
Monaco[c]	7 January 2000
Mongolia[b,c]	6 December 1995
Montenegro[c]	2 August 2006
Mozambique (Protocol I)	14 March 1983
(Protocol II)	12 November 2002

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Namibia[c]	17 June 1994
Nauru	27 June 2006
Netherlands[b,c]	26 June 1987
New Zealand[b,c]	8 February 1988
Nicaragua	19 July 1999
Niger	8 June 1979
Nigeria	10 October 1988
Norway[c]	14 December 1981
Oman[b]	29 March 1984
Palau	25 June 1996
Panama[c]	18 September 1995
Paraguay[c]	30 November 1990
Peru	14 July 1989
Philippines (Protocol II only)	11 December 1986
Poland[c]	23 October 1991
Portugal[c]	27 May 1992
Qatar (Protocol I)[b,c]	5 April 1988
(Protocol II)	5 January 2005
Republic of Korea[b,c]	15 January 1982
Republic of Moldova	24 May 1993
Romania[c]	21 June 1990
Russian Federation[b,c]	29 September 1989
Rwanda[c]	19 November 1984
Saint Kitts and Nevis	14 February 1986
Saint Lucia	7 October 1982
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	8 April 1983
Samoa	23 August 1984
San Marino	5 April 1994

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Sao Tome and Principe	5 July 1996
Saudi Arabia (Protocol I)[b]	21 August 1987
(Protocol II)	28 November 2001
Senegal	7 May 1985
Serbia[c]	16 October 2001
Seychelles[c]	8 November 1984
Sierra Leone	21 October 1986
Slovakia[c]	2 April 1993
Slovenia[c]	26 March 1992
Solomon Islands	19 September 1988
South Africa	21 November 1995
Spain[b,c]	21 April 1989
Sudan (Protocol I)	7 March 2006
(Protocol II)	13 July 2006
Suriname	16 December 1985
Swaziland	2 November 1995
Sweden[b,c]	31 August 1979
Switzerland[c]	17 February 1982
Syrian Arab Republic (Protocol I only)[b]	14 November 1983
Tajikistan[c]	13 January 1993
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[b,c]	1 September 1993
Timor-Leste	12 April 2005
Togo[c]	21 June 1984
Tonga[c]	20 January 2003
Trinidad and Tobago[c]	20 July 2001
Tunisia	9 August 1979
Turkmenistan	10 April 1992
Uganda	13 March 1991

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Ukraine[c]	25 January 1990
United Arab Emirates[b,c]	9 March 1983
United Kingdom[b,c]	28 January 1998
United Republic of Tanzania	15 February 1983
Uruguay[c]	13 December 1985
Uzbekistan	8 October 1993
Vanuatu	28 February 1985
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	23 July 1998
Viet Nam (Protocol I only)	19 October 1981
Yemen	17 April 1990
Zambia	4 May 1995
Zimbabwe	19 October 1992

[a] The list was provided by Switzerland as a Depositary of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols. Information was taken from the website of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs: www.dfae.admin.ch/depositaire.

[b] Ratification, accession or succession accompanied by a reservation and/or a declaration.

[c] Party which has made the declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I.